

This is what I had planned to say when the FCC was in San Antonio conducting their hearing. I waited five hours, and was unable to stay any longer, two hours prior to the event and three hours inside the event. May I suggest that you hand out numbers to speakers based on who was waiting outside in line to enter the event instead of just letting people in and later announcing an open microphone. The stampede of speakers would not have happened and I would have been able to speak.

Hello and good evening.

My name is Bette Berns and I have worked with Mothers Against Drunk Driving for the last 18 years.

I am here tonight to praise the media for the great job that they do in this community and for their dedication to making a difference in the fight to stop drunk driving.

The count of drunk driving traffic fatalities is down in this community because the media chooses to cover this issue.

Local reports of crashes can be seen on TV. They are described in print and are spoken of on the Radio.

When MADD issues a press release for a court house event, the media responds by coming to the trials, by reporting on the pleas and by covering the prison sentences that drunk drivers receive.

The media is also invited and attends our local Candlelight Vigil and our local Red ribbon kick off. Whenever the DWI Task Force has a Saturation Patrol, the media gets the word out. They always responds to our Lights on for Life program which we do for almost every major holiday.

I am very proud of the way the media approaches the violent crime of drunk driving and I am very grateful that they consider our issue to be so important. The bottom line is simple. The media saves lives and changes behavior because they truly care about the people who live in this community.

Thank you.

Bette Berns  
Director of Victim Services  
Past President